

ABSTRACT

An aircraft tire having a folded belt construction and a belt edge strip over the folded belt construction has improved high speed properties. The belt edge strip substantially covers the top surface and/or the bottom surface of the folded belt in addition to the folded belt edges. The folded belt construction is reinforced with high modulus materials, and the belt edge strip is reinforced with low modulus materials. In a method of the invention, plies which make up the belt reinforcement package are applied to a belt building drum while the building drum is at different diameters to minimize stresses on the belt package. In a method of building a tire of the invention, a tire carcass on a tire building drum is expanded to the belt package.